



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
	:	
Cellynisade K. Covington, C.H.H.A.	:	FINAL ORDER OF
Certificate No. 26NH15393000	:	DISCIPLINE
	:	
	:	
	:	
	:	
HOMEMAKER-HOME HEALTH AIDE	:	
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Cellynisade K. Covington ("Respondent") is a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. The Board received a flagging notice that Respondent was arrested on January 23, 2015 by the Berlin Police for violation of (2) Counts N.J.S.A. 2C:20-3A Theft of Movable Property, (1) Count 2C:20-4A Theft By Deception, (1) Count 2C:21-6H Fraud Use of Credit Card and a complaint from Respondent's employer reporting the incident that led to

Respondent's arrest. The Board sent Respondent a letter of inquiry, requesting certain information and submission of documents, to Respondent's address of record in Sicklerville, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about February 25, 2015. A response was due within twenty (20) days. The regular mailing was not returned; the certified mailing was signed for on February 27, 2015.

3. To date, Respondent has not responded to the Board's request for information.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to fully respond to the Board's request for information constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, in contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, which the Board deems professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), subjecting Respondent to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on August 14 8, 2015, provisionally suspending respondent's certification to practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide, and imposing a \$200 civil penalty. A copy of the Order was served upon the respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the

Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order, and provided the Board with documentation of one of the counts filed against her, theft of movable property. However, there was no narrative statement explaining the circumstances that resulted in the charges being filed, nor was there any explanation of the disposition of the other charges against her. There was also no information about her current employment, nor was there a copy of her most recent performance evaluation. The Board therefore determined that respondent had persisted in her failure to fully cooperate with the Board's investigation of this matter, and determined that the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015,  
ORDERED that:

1. Upon the filing of this order, Respondent's certificate to practice as a homemaker-home health aide will be suspended until such time as Respondent cooperates fully with the Board's investigation by providing the Board with the information requested in the Board's letter of inquiry. Upon the filing of this order, Respondent shall refrain from engaging in the practice as a homemaker-home health aide and shall not represent herself as a homemaker-home health aide until such time as her certification is reinstated. Any practice in this State prior to such reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

2. Upon the filing of this order, Respondent shall promptly, within 5 (five) days, mail her certificate, wall and wallet version, to practice as a homemaker-home health aide to Twalema Khonge, Board Staff, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

3. Upon the filing of this order Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200). Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to Twalema Khonge, Board Staff, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of

payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing of this order. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

4. The Board reserves the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings based upon any information that Respondent ultimately provides in response to the letter of inquiry or upon any new information the Board receives.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Patricia Murphy PLD APN*  
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
President